

TWO FORMS OF *BLEPHARIDA RHOIS* (FORST.)

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Blepharida rhois (Forst.) is represented in the Canadian National Collection by a few specimens from many localities in North America. Leng (1920) lists one specific name and two synonyms for the forms of the genus in the United States. This synonymy, like that of other recent authors, follows Rogers (1856, p. 29). The usage of these names has been questioned by some workers. Recently, two series collected in eastern Ontario have suggested a possible solution to this problem.

Specimens obtained in eastern Ontario at Marmora and Belleville all have reddish-brown lines instead of blotches on the elytra. There are other specimens of the striped form in the Canadian National Collection bearing the labels "eastern Ontario" and "Deseronto, Ont.". In the New York State Museum are striped specimens collected near Albany and New York. These are the only locality records of the striped form known to the writer.

The blotched form is widely distributed. In the Canadian National Collection specimens are recorded from southern Ontario at Caradoc, Strathroy, London, and Ojibway, one specimen from Medicine Hat, Alberta, and specimens from the United States as follows: a locality near New York City; New Jersey; Kansas; Gardens Corner, South Carolina; Cloudland State Park, Georgia; Florida; Davis Mts., Texas; and Boulder, Colorado.

The striped form, which appears to have only a northern distribution, consistently shows two color characters. The elytra are yellowish with only moderately variable reddish-brown stripes, and the first four antennal segments are pale, the remainder dark.

The blotched form has variable color characters. There seems to be no definite pattern on the elytra, which show a blotchy combination of yellow and reddish-brown and which vary geographically; the antennae are not constant in color. Northern specimens have pale antennae; Florida specimens have the first four segments pale, the remainder dark. The antennae of specimens from intermediate localities vary in color and are intermediate between the northern and southern forms. In the south, the antennal differences in the blotched form suggest geographical races.

Male genitalia of the two forms were compared and no character was found to separate them.

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According to the literature, *Blepharida rhois* restricts its feeding to plants of the genus *Rhus*. Host labels on specimens and collectors' experiences confirm this. There are records of the striped form on fragrant sumac, *Rhus aromatica* Ait., and of the blotched form on staghorn sumac, *Rhus typhina* L.

The names *rhois* (Forster, 1771, p. 21) and *meticulosa* (Olivier, 1807, p. 531) apply to the striped form. The name *stolida* (Fabricius, 1792, p. 318) is available for the blotched form, unless it applies properly to a Central American species as suggested by Olivier (1807, p. 526). Jacoby's descriptions (1885, pp. 385-389; 1891, supplement, p. 306) suggest that there is no species known from Central America like either of these forms. Frolich (1792, p. 129) used the name *virginica* for a form from Virginia. His description seems to apply to neither form. Further study may show that two taxonomic entities, specifically or subspecifically distinct, are concerned.

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